



April 14, 2021

Chairman Hall and members of the House Tax Policy Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on HB 4485. The American Heart Association (AHA) is opposed to this bill, as currently drafted. We respectfully request that the cigar tax cap expire as scheduled, which will allow cigars to be taxed the same as other tobacco products.

As part of AHA's efforts to reduce tobacco use, especially among youth and young adults, we are asking all states to support significantly increasing tobacco excise taxes for all products including e-cigarettes. This has proved to be one of the most effective strategies for reducing tobacco use, especially among youth and young adults.

As the nation's oldest and largest organization dedicated to fighting heart disease and stroke, the AHA represents more than 100 million patients with cardiovascular disease (CVD). Tobacco use is a leading cause of CVD and is responsible for one out of four CVD deaths.ⁱ Overall, tobacco use remains the leading cause of preventable death in the United States, killing more than 480,000 people in America each yearⁱⁱ and accounting for nearly \$170 billion annually in health care costs nationally and \$4.59 billion in Michigan.ⁱⁱⁱ

We urge your support on this important issue. If you have any questions, please contact me. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bridget Melinn".

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ⁱ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. [Heart Attack](#) [last updated 2017 Aug 8; accessed 2018 Mar 22]



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- ⁱⁱ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), The Health Consequences of Smoking: 50 Years of Progress. A Report of the Surgeon General, Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2014. <http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/reports/50-yearsof-progress/index.html>. 3 HHS, The Health Consequences of Smoking: 50 Years of Progress.
- ⁱⁱⁱ Xu, X et al., “Annual Healthcare Spending Attributable to Cigarette Smoking: An Update,” Am J Prev Med, 2014. HHS, The Health Consequences of Smoking – 50 Years of Progress A Report of the Surgeon General, 2014. Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids. (2021). Key State-Specific Tobacco Related Data & Rankings. <https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/assets/factsheets/0176.pdf>. Federal gov’t reimburses the states, on average, for 56.8% of their Medicaid expenditures. National health care costs are in 2010 dollars.